

CLAIMS

1. A method for broadcasting content data from a broadcaster (110) to a plurality of clients, the method comprising the steps of:

5 receiving, by a client (120, 122, 124, 126, 128), broadcasted content data from the broadcaster (110);

determining, by the client (120, 122, 124, 126, 128), a plurality of available proxy servers (130, 132, 134, 136, 138) that may be contacted for post-processing after the content data broadcast;

10 randomly selecting, by the client (120, 122, 124, 126, 128), one of the available proxy servers (130, 132, 134, 136, 138) to contact for post-processing after the content data broadcast; and

contacting, by the client (120, 122, 124, 126, 128), the selected proxy server (130, 132, 134, 136, 138) to initiate post-processing.

15 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

determining, by the client (120, 122, 124, 126, 128), contact intervals for each of the available proxy servers (130, 132, 134, 136, 138) specifying the time period in which the proxy servers (130, 132, 134, 136, 138) may be contacted after the broadcast;

20 randomly selecting, by the client (120, 122, 124, 126, 128), a delay time within the contact interval for contacting the selected proxy server (130, 132, 134, 136, 138); and

25 wherein the selected proxy server (130, 132, 134, 136, 138) is contacted to initiate post-processing at the delay time.

3. The method of any of the preceding claims, further comprising the step of sending, by the client (120, 122, 124, 126, 128) to the contacted proxy server (130, 132, 134, 136, 138), information pertaining to content data that has or has not been correctly received.

35 4. The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of sending, by the contacted proxy server (130, 132, 134, 136, 138) to the client (120, 122, 124, 126, 128), information to reconstruct the content data.

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5. The method of any of the preceding claims, further comprising the step of sending, by the client (120, 122, 124, 126, 128) to the contacted proxy server (130, 132, 134, 136, 138), a notification that the content data was either successfully or unsuccessfully received or reconstructed.

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6. The method of any of the preceding claims, further comprising the step of obtaining, by the client (120, 122, 124, 126, 128) from a digital rights manager, at least one of permission and rights objects to access the content data.

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7. The method of any of the preceding claims, further comprising the step of sending, by the client (120, 122, 124, 126, 128) to the contacted proxy server (130, 132, 134, 136, 138), data pertaining to one or more responses by the client (120, 122, 124, 126, 128) to prompts within the content data.

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8. The method of claim 7, wherein the prompts relate to voting or the purchase of an object or service.

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9. The method of any of the preceding claims, further comprising the step of sending, by the client (120, 122, 124, 126, 128) to the contacted proxy server (130, 132, 134, 136, 138), a request to obtain additional content data.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the further content data was identified by a URL within the broadcasted content data.

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11. The method of any of the preceding claims, further comprising the step of providing, by the broadcaster (110) to each of the proxy servers (130, 132, 134, 136, 138), at least a portion of the content data.

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12. The method of any of the preceding claims, wherein information associated with available proxy servers (130, 132, 134, 136, 138) is embedded in the broadcasted content data as side information.

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13. The method of claim 2, wherein information associated with the contact intervals for each available proxy server (130, 132, 134, 136, 138) is embedded in the broadcasted content data as side information.

14. The method of any of the preceding claims, further comprising the step of determining one or more proxy servers (130, 132, 134, 136, 138) prior to the random selection based on an attribute of the client.

5 15. The method of any of the preceding claims, wherein the method is performed in a multicast scenario.

10 16. The method of any of the preceding claims, further comprising the step of adjusting the number of available proxy servers (130, 132, 134, 136, 138) for subsequent broadcasts based on the number of post-processing transactions.

15 17. A computer program product comprising program code portions for performing the steps of any of the preceding claims when the computer program product is run on a computer system.

18. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the computer program product is stored on a computer readable recording medium.

20 19. An apparatus comprising a computer processor and a memory coupled to the processor, where the memory is encoded with one or more programs that may perform the steps of any of claims 1 to 16.

25 20. An apparatus for receiving content data broadcasted from a broadcaster to a plurality of clients, the apparatus comprising:

a reception unit (310) for receiving broadcasted content data from the broadcaster;

a determination unit (320) for determining a plurality of available proxy servers that may be contacted for post-processing after the content data broadcast;

30 a first random selection (330) unit for randomly selecting one of the available proxy servers to contact for post-processing after the content data broadcast; and

a contact unit (340) for contacting the selected proxy server to initiate post-processing.

35 21. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the determination unit further determines contact intervals for each of the available proxy servers specifying the time period in which the proxy servers may be contacted after the broadcast; and

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wherein the contact unit contacts the selected proxy server to initiate post-processing at a delay time; and further comprising:

a second random selection unit (350) for randomly selecting the delay time within the contact interval for contacting the selected proxy server.

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22. An apparatus for broadcasting content data to a plurality of clients, the apparatus comprising:

a content data acquisition unit for acquiring content data for broadcast;

10 a determination unit for determining which of a plurality of proxy servers may be contacted by the clients for post-processing; and

a broadcast unit for broadcasting the content data to the clients along with a list specifying the proxy servers that may be contacted for post processing to permit the client to randomly select a proxy server for post-processing.

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23. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the determination unit further determines contact intervals for each of the available proxy servers specifying the time period in which the proxy servers may be contacted after the broadcast; and

20 wherein the broadcast unit further broadcasts the contact intervals for each of the available proxy servers to permit the client to randomly select a delay time within the contact interval in which to contact to selected proxy server for post-processing.

24. The apparatus of one of claim 22 or 23, wherein said determination unit further determines one or more post-processing transactions that may be initiated by the clients.

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25. A system comprising:

at least one broadcaster (110) for broadcasting content data and post-processing instructions;

30 a plurality of clients (120, 122, 124, 126, 128) for receiving the broadcast content data;

a plurality of proxy servers (130, 132, 134, 136, 138) for processing requests from the clients (120, 122, 124, 126, 128) after the content data is broadcast;

wherein the post-processing instructions identify available proxy servers; and

35 wherein the plurality of clients (120, 122, 124, 126, 128) randomly select and contact one of the available proxy servers (130, 132, 134, 136, 138) for post-processing.